

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph on page 15 begining at line 13 as follows:

To more clearly realize the novelty of the finger platform, FIG. 3 indicates a typical fork handle †4 11A that is generally of a uniform thickness. As FIG. 3 depicts, the improved universal fork 10 has added material to cause a bulging of the shaft top 16 and bottom 17 side surfaces, in a manner in which a flat surface 15 is able to be defined to provide an area commensurate with the area that a typical forefinger fingertip 62 will contact, as shown in FIG. 4. This added material, as compared with a typical fork handle †4 11A, creates the finger platform upon which a person's finger can press against. This finger platform allows a person to utilize the cutting edges of a fork 10 more efficiently through the distribution of forces from the finger to the fork.

Please amend the paragraph begining on page 17 line 1 as follows:

As seen from a top view, such as shown in FIG. 1, a fork 10 having an enlarged handle grip 12 is shown, with the outer tines 32 and 32' exhibiting an exaggerated widened portion, as compared with a typical fork. A typical fork outer tine has an outer edge as shown by dashed line 33 and 33'. The improved universal fork 10 has incorporated an extended outer edge area 34 and 34', which comprises an extended width of the outer tine 32 and 32', having a curved outer edge 35 and 35'. The curved outer edge 35 and 35' follows an ~~areal~~ arcuate path, and will comprise a curved surface arcing thirty degrees or more. As FIG. 9 shows, the curvature may even approach or exceed ninety degrees of curvature, when defining the first curvature vector 44 as the start of the

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arcual outer edge 35 where it protrudes outward from the head 14, with the second vector 45 being the edge angle at the tip 66 of the outer tine 32.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19 line 7 as follows:

An increased ability for this fork 10 to function as a cutting instrument is enhanced by the finger platform flat edge area 15. Referring now specifically to FIG. 4, a person's hand is shown, in which a fork 10 has been rotated ninety degrees from its typical resting position, as shown in FIG. 1, with the thumb 34 61 and middle finger 64 grasping the handle of the fork 10 on its top 16 and lower 17 surface respectively. The forefinger 60 is able to press against the finger platform flat area 15 with its fingertip 62, thereby imparting a downward pressure into the length of the fork 10, with the forward portion of the handle and head of the fork 10 functioning as a lever, with the handle 12 being the fulcrum. The downward pressing force applied by the fingertip 62, is transferred to the outer edge 35' of fork 10. Through simple upward and downward rotational movement of the person's hand, the outer edge 35' will be able to rock back and forth over food items desired to be cut.